



MEDIA RELEASE

DAVID MORRIS MP

Member for Mornington

13 May 2010

Green Wedge Landowners Need Certainty Now

Mornington MP, David Morris, last night demanded that the Brumby Government “put it’s money where it’s mouth is” and deal with the rapidly developing crisis affecting many Peninsula rural land holders.

Speaking at the public meeting at Mornington Racing Club called to discuss green wedge planning laws Mr Morris said it was very important to protect the non-urban areas but the government was trying to effect “re-zoning by stealth.”

“I have always supported the imposition of strong urban boundaries and the protection of our rural land on the Peninsula. That is not going to change, full stop, but this present system is totally unworkable.”

“Prior to 2002 the Peninsula had planning controls in place developed in collaboration between planners and the community, specifically tailored to allow appropriate development while at the same time protecting landscape values, sensitive environmental precincts and local amenity”.

“The introduction of the green wedge zone has weakened protection in many parts of the Peninsula, allowed the creation of smaller lots in the Mount Eliza – Mornington green belt and even allowed the development of caravan parks in so-called protected areas.”

“The same controls have now led to a reversal of the situation that has prevailed for nearly forty years. Any landholder who made a reasonable application to construct a home could in the ordinary course of events expect that a permit would be granted.”

“The only safe expectation now is that a permit will in all probability be refused, often with dire financial consequences for ordinary Peninsula families”

“The Government must immediately step in and resolve this problem before even more innocent people are caught up”.